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The Highlander

Thursday March 20 2025 | Issue 681

INSIDE: HAVE YOUR SAY ON DYSART'S PARKS AND REC PAGE 5 FREE

Changes coming for County 9-1-1 calls

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County residents are being advised about a new ambulance dispatch system and how it will impact them.

Starting March 26, Lindsay Central Ambulance Communications Centre, which dispatches paramedics working for Haliburton County Paramedic Services, will transition to the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS), as part of Ontario's "Your Health Plan".

Michael Slatter, chief/director of EMS of the County of Haliburton Paramedic Services, and Dr. Michael Feldman, an expert in the field, spoke at County council March 12.

Slatter said it is a modern system that will more effectively use ambulances in the County. The system is already being used in Toronto and Niagara Falls, B.C., and across much of the world, including England.

"It will create an efficient use of ambulance services in Haliburton County with balanced emergency coverage, should improve our response times, based on patient care needs and priority, and a big change is it uses a colour code system to prioritize the call and allocate resources," Slatter said.

Feldman explained that dispatch in Lindsay will mark life-threatening calls as purple first, and red second; which will mean no delay in sending an ambulance. Purple means the call is 58 per cent life threatening, and red 2.2 per cent life threatening. Next up are orange (0.4 per cent life threatening); yellow (0.2 per cent life threatening) and green (0.1 per cent life threatening).

Basically, life-threatening calls get immediate response, while non-life-threatening calls receive less priority. In those instances, the 9-1-1 dispatcher will keep the person on the phone a bit longer to gather more information and provide

Continued **'New'** on page 2

Michael Slatter is chief/director of Haliburton County Paramedic Service. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Highlander news

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Michael Slatter is chief/director of Haliburton County Paramedic Service. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

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New system will alter volunteer firefighter role

Continued from page 1

instructions. In the case of delays for green, orange, and yellow, calls, they will monitor the patient from dispatch. For example, Feldman said they would call back to assess, and make sure the patient's condition has not changed.

Feldman said the old system, DPCI-2, over-prioritizes calls.

He gave the example of a two-tiered (ambulance and fire) response to someone experiencing chest pain.

"If you had a young person playing baseball who pulled a muscle when they swung a bat, and were experiencing chest pain, this pulled muscle call would be dispatched as a lights and sirens call because chest pain under the old protocol always meant an emergency. Under the new protocol, we'll be able to distinguish between the 17-year-old with a pulled muscle and the 80-year-old who is having a heart attack."

He added MPDS is a more accurate way of assessing urgency; a better dispatch tool for deciding what resources to send, the standard of care, and will decrease unnecessary lights and sirens responses. He said it does not limit, or remove, any resources. "More urgent calls may see improved response times; delays are possible for low acuity calls."

> *"It's about the right care to the right people at the right time.*
> ***Michael Slatter***

Fewer ambulances flying down the road with lights and sirens is also expected to lessen collisions, he said.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux asked about the potential impact on the County's volunteer fire departments. Slatter said he met with County fire chiefs March 7 to discuss the new system and how it is going to impact them.

Slatter added in a video presented to council, "this new system will help paramedic services preserve emergency medical capacity for those who need it most. It's about the right care to the right people at the right time. For non-urgent healthcare or social service needs, please visit your local County website to find alternatives to calling 9-1-1."

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Highlander news

Closing time for County snowmobile trails

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) has called time on the 2024/25 snowmobiling season, with president Neil Vanderstoop reporting a "huge bounce-back" year.

Trails across the Highlands have been busy from late December to early March, with Vanderstoop saying multiple heavy snowfalls and timely response from HCSA groomers resulted in one of the best seasons in the organization's 53-year history.

He said the HCSA maintained approximately 370 kilometres of trails and sold over 1,600 season trail passes and 150 multi-day passes.

"It was a super comeback from two hard years… last year wasn't the worst in HCSA history, but it wasn't great. Definitely a shorter season. This has been more a return to the norm," Vanderstoop told *The Highlander.* "Trail conditions were great – the snow started off really sugary, but once we got out there and packed them down, it made for awesome riding."

He said volunteers working on popular trails over the Family Day long weekend counted more than 1,000 sleds. "Just awesome numbers – and I think the following weekends too, after the really big snowfalls, were probably even busier."

After reporting an economic impact of around $7.5 million to County businesses following the 2022/23 season, Vanderstoop said he's hoping for an even better return this year.

Mike Rae, owner of Boshkung Smokehouse at Haliburton Forest, said this has been his best winter season since purchasing the business in 2021.

"Last year was a short-and-sweet season – we were really busy for a few weeks in January and February, but it came and went pretty quickly. This has been three months of madness, easily the busiest I've seen things at this time of year," Rae said.

He's estimating a 30 per cent boost from last year, with his busiest time coming over the Family Day long weekend in February, where he fed about 500 people per day.

Rae said this will be his first winter season where he turns a profit.

"That's what's going to take me through the next couple months as we ramp up for summer."

He reckons about 80 per cent of his clientele since December have been snowmobilers. Many of them are visiting from outside the County, using HCSA trails to pass through.

"Trail 11 is a huge traveling artery – it's basically the shortcut that connects Dwight to Haliburton. It didn't open last year, which definitely hurt, but this year has been great. Without that trail it would have been a completely different season," Rae said, crediting HCSA for maintaining the route. "They do an unbelievable amount of work and it's appreciated – without them, a lot of businesses would be in trouble this time of year."

Harsha Manani, co-owner of Lakeview Motel in Haliburton, said she's seen a huge influx of snowmobilers again this year.

"The snowfall has absolutely translated to more business for us. We've seen a steady increase in visitors, with more people staying longer and supporting local," Manani said, saying snowmobilers accounted for 52 per cent of the motel's winter business.

"I'd rate this winter tourism season as one of the best in recent years… it's a big boost for the local economy," she added.

Taylor Pridham, owner of Hook, Line and Sinker in Haliburton village, said his restaurant has seen business improve 20 to 30 per cent from last year, with at least 60 per cent of patrons sledders.

Snowmobiling across the County returned with a bang this season after multiple heavy snowfalls. *File.*

Vanderstoop said volunteers broke several records this year, including one for grooming on the rail line that had stood for 54 years. "We put in over 700 hours there alone."

The organization will be donating money raised by HCSA members and the community for trail grooming to the Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS), operated by YWCA Peterborough Haliburton.

Workers will spend the next few weeks removing around 600 trail markers from 18 lakes. Over the summer, Vanderstoop said the focus will be planning for upgrades at the Anson Creek bridge and improving its digital records. He said HCSA partnered with over 140 private landowners this season, but wants to add more.

COUNTY NEWS

Tenders for hot mix and Paudash bridge

The County awarded the tender for its 2025 hot mix project at the March 12 council meeting. Director of public works, Sylvin Cloutier, said the winning bid was from Dufferin Construction Company. He said they received five bids, with the winning bid under budget.

The County budgeted $1,270,263, and the bid came in at $1,099,008. It's a saving of $171,255 or 13.5 per cent.

They are looking to do County Road 48 (Loop Road) for hot mix resurfacing, from the Hwy. 118 west junction to the south boundary of Wilberforce, or 5,420 metres.

The County also gave the green light for the Paudash Lake bridge rehabilitation, to KB Constructors Inc. Cloutier said there were 11 bids. They budgeted $1 million, and the bid came in at $712,168.84 including non recoverable taxes.

(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Highlander news

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HE receives trails strategy for next 10 years and beyond

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East council, at its March 11 meeting, received the draft final report of a trails strategy for 2025 to 2035 and beyond.

Consultant pl.ural did the work, with Sean Kelly and Jacklyn Short presenting at last week's meeting.

In 2023, the municipality identified a need for a strategy.

Kelly said their plan was to identify existing trails and paddle routes, supporting infrastructure and amenities; develop a framework to advance trails and related infrastructure into the next 10 years; address current challenges and build a strong foundation for future projects; promote stewardship and sustainability, and demonstrate a commitment to trails — supporting healthy active lifestyles, community connections, access to nature, and strengthening community identity.

The consultants visited Highlands East, and talked to people, and came up with a plan and a budget.

They found 10 municipally-owned and operated formal trails, totaling more than 30 kilometres, and encouragement of paddling on six lakes.

However, they discovered the supporting infrastructure to be somewhat lacking, with many access points difficult to locate, or in rough shape, signage, footbridges, public toilets and picnic tables "beyond life expectancy."

They also identified existing and potential partners, including snowmobile, ATV and four-wheel drive, cycling clubs, and First Nations.

> *We're hoping that in the future, we will see some progress emitting from this report.*
>
> ***Sean Kelly***

An open house this time last year attracted more than 55 community members, with 20 responses to online and paper surveys. Another 18 people and interest groups spoke to pl.ural.

Kelly said after all the talk with municipal staff, residents and businesses, recreationalists, volunteer groups, and powersports organizations, there were emerging themes around trail management and maintenance, supporting cycling, safety and multi-use trails, wayfinding, landowner relations, interest-holder engagement, and tourism.

"What it means is safety could be improved upon, the community cares to collaborate, a refresh is in order, it is difficult to care for, connectivity is key, conflicting uses and questioning ownership," the draft report said.

As for implementing change and what it will cost, pl.ural estimated $380,000, with Kelly saying "not all this has to happen all at once… but the commitment is important, an investment in community connectivity, recreation, tourism, economic development. And the commitment could be capital or campaign based."

Kelly told council when they first came to Highlands East, they were "wowed." He added, "we had a pretty decent first impression. We went up there and said 'this is such a beautiful landscape'. What we weren't seeing, however, were things like the organization of trail environments, access, impacts, and those sorts of things that do happen when we have beautiful places, and how we get these managed."

Kelly thought they had prepared "a robust trail strategy plan for the municipality. We think it's very comprehensive. We think it's very realistic, and certainly of a scale of magnitude that fits the community. We're hoping that in the future, we will see some progress emitting from this report."

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Consultants found infrastructure lacking. *File.*

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall asked what pl.ural saw as next steps in the short and mid-term and longer term.

Kelly said, "it's time for the municipality to get together and look at this, perhaps with their interest groups. What are those things that we can do right now? The big things we heard earlier on were about ownership, some trespass issues, perhaps those could be addressed as soon as possible. Given the number of users you have, it's probably wise to invest in some administration of trail environment. I'm thinking, basically, the maintenance manual for trails and operating procedures would be really timely for the municipality."

Ryall commented it might also be prudent to resurrect the township's defunct trails committee. Short replied, "I think a committee that's made up of a shared responsibility amongst user groups or interest holders, indigenous communities. and the municipality, is a very wise thing."

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• March 27 – Regular Council Meeting
• April 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- We're Still Talking, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists will be on display from March 20 - May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Opening reception with the artists on March 22. See separate ad for more details.
- The UnFinished Objects (UFO) Craft Group will be meeting at the Cultural Centre on Friday, March 21 1:00pm - 3:00 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: REDEVELOPMENT OF LOCHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Township of Minden Hills is seeking partners for the re-development of the Community Centre (4713 Gelert Road, Lochlin) and is requesting Expressions of Interest. All replies to or questions about this notice should be submitted by emailing Wendelin Lonergan, Director of Finance, at wlonergan@mindenhills.ca. For complete details and proposal requirements, please visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

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Andrea Mueller, Dysart's manager of programs and events, said an open house March 27 will help shape future parks and recreation decisions. *File*.

Public to help piece together recreation roadmap

By Mike Baker

Have you ever wished there was a splash pad in Haliburton village? Or more soccer fields where you can play the beautiful game? Then Dysart et al wants to hear from you.

The municipality is hosting an open house inside council chambers March 27, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., looking for public feedback and ideas that staff can work into the township's first parks and recreation master plan.

Approved by council last spring, the document will help to shape priorities in recreation for the next 10-to-20 years, said Andrea Mueller, Dysart's manager of programs and events.

"We've never had a long-term plan, taking a step back and looking at things from a top-down approach across all of parks and recreation," Mueller said. "We want to establish short, medium and long-term goals that reflect the changing nature of our community. It will guide suggestions for future programming, identify spaces that are underutilized, and be a platform for us to plan for major projects down the road."

Dysart has contracted Fergus-based consultants pl.ural for $27,480 to assist with its development. Mueller said their staff will be available at next week's session to update people on what they've heard so far – a community survey wrapped last week – and take down new ideas.

She noted nothing is off the table – whether it be a new arena, or even a swimming pool.

"Some people want a splash pad for their kids, others want a new pool or arena so their children can play hockey in a new, updated rink. There are some who think we should have a performing arts centre – there's so many different ideas… it will be interesting to see what the number one item is that people are recommending."

While there has been a lot of talk about new recreational facilities being constructed on land the township recently acquired along County Road 21, largely from members of Dysart council, Mueller said nothing concrete has crossed her table.

More important than identifying wants and perceived needs, she said, is figuring out if they're feasible. That will all be covered in the final report, expected by late summer or early fall.

"You could have a beautiful building, but if it's not going to be functional then it could be that we're better off putting our money elsewhere. It's easy to say 'we want this', but if it's going to cost $25-30 million, then we have to think about how we achieve that. That's why it's important to do the research, talk to people and make as informed a decision as possible.

"The more people we hear from, the better. This is going to be for the entire community. It's important we include voices from all ages and demographics," Mueller said.

Another feature of the plan, Mueller says, is it would allow the township to quickly formalize applications for government funding when available. "If we're shovel-ready with our plans, that could push us to the front of the line."

Head Lake Park

Mueller said there are several enhancements planned for Head Lake Park this summer.

The previous council adopted a master plan for the park in December 2020. In the years since, there has been a new welcome centre constructed, a full replacement of the main playground, and investments to the dog park.

This year, the township is partnering with area businesses to install benches and a new sunshade at the dog park, a sunshade at the playground, and for tree planting. There's also a planned $500,000 reconstruction of the bridge connecting Head Lake and Rotary Beach parks.

"We've been working towards different aspects within the plan for Head Lake Park for the past four years, chipping away year-by-year and making great progress," Mueller said, noting that document will be absorbed into the wider parks and recreation master plan when completed.

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

The site of the original public boat launch of Bob Lake. *File.*

Bob Lake boat launch not completely dead

By Lisa Gervais

The door is open – a sliver – to there ever being a public boat launch on Bob Lake once again.

In the spring of 2016, after decades of uninterrupted use, the only public boat launch on the land-locked lake was barricaded. While advertised as a public launch, and maintained by the township, it turned out the launch was located on private land. The owner wanted to sell and decided to block access, citing liability concerns.

It resulted in the formation of the Bob Lake Association, which has been trying to get a new launch ever since.

Minden Hills CAO Cynthia Fletcher told a March 13 council meeting that at the Bob Lake Association's request, she and clerk, Vicki Bull, met with members to hear their latest ask.

Fletcher said, "the representatives were very clear on their current position, that the township expropriate land from the private property owner [on Claude Brown Road] to affect a recreational boat launch."

The municipality sought a legal opinion, and "the township's legal counsel has characterized expropriation as an 'extraordinary power' that should rarely be used," Fletcher said, adding it's "fraught with risks, liabilities, and significant costs. The action would bring tremendous reputational, financial and resource risk to the township and council."

Coun. Shirley Johannessen commented on the nine-year-old file.

"Just this last summer, I was asked 'what is happening with our boat launch'? I wouldn't be doing my job as a councillor if I did not speak on the matter and be a voice for Bob Lake."

She said a public boat launch wouldn't just be for Bob Lake residents, but the Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks Canada, the police and first responders, and commercial users, delivering new docks and other materials.

However, Fletcher and mayor Bob Carter said MNRF, Parks Canada, police and fire have no issues accessing the lake.

Johannessen then said nothing in the report spoke to other options, including negotiating with the property owner. 'Bob Lake Association residents believe that the Township of Minden Hills has been opposed to every possible solution." She said they needed to keep the door open.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey asked if the township had ever sent correspondence to the owner of the property where the original public boat launch was to see if they were willing to sell, or enter into an agreement.

Bull said there had been emails in the past, but the owner decided not to pursue an arrangement.

McKelvey said she did not support expropriation but wanted council to contact the present owner of the former dam site boat launch to see if they were willing to negotiate.

Bull said staff were happy to contact the property owner and bring back an update to council at a future meeting.

Carter said if the answer is no, "we stop this…we are spending far too much time and money on this. We have other things that have to be done in the township."

Volunteer appreciation

Minden Hills has decided it will give out six volunteer awards on an annual basis.

Bull said in the past, awards have included: The Good Neighbour Award, for showing initiative through spontaneous, unheralded actions towards another, or others; the Ross Rigney Award, for civic contribution by a youth; The Gordon A. Monk Award for volunteerism; the arts and culture award; sports and recreation award; and Trillium Award, for horticultural efforts.

Bull said advertising would commence in November, with a deadline in March, and awards in April during volunteer appreciation week.

Council will also give out a senior of the year award.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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County discusses securing loan for LTC

By Lisa Gervais

HHHS CAO Veronica Nelson inside Hyland Crest Long-Term Care home. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke told council March 12, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is looking for County help to secure financing for 32 per cent - or $16 million - of the $49 million expansion of Hyland Crest LTC home in Minden.

Dyke said $33 million, or 68 per cent, would come from the province.

He said the County is eligible to secure an Infrastructure Ontario loan to support the project. He said HHHS would cover loan costs.

"The funding support option … provides an opportunity to support the expansion of LTC services with limited impact on County finances, while also providing significant savings for HHHS in the overall financing costs for the project," Dyke said.

He did say they looked into what it would mean for the County's borrowing capacity. He did not anticipate an issue, saying they would still be able to borrow $30-35 million after a loan for HHHS.

HHHS has requested a letter of support from the County.

Coun. Lisa Schell said she was asking a question on behalf of the public; "what if they don't make their payments?" Dyke said the terms of default would be identified in the agreement.

Coun. Bob Carter said it was early days with no information on what HHHS requires for water and sewer and what the municipality will have to do to provide that. "Although their number is $50 million right now, I think that number is probably a bit speculative. So, what happens if it goes to $60 million and they need $26 million? What is it that we are agreeing to at this point, because this is the money of our constituents…"

> *"Although their number is $50 million right now, I think that number is probably a bit speculative.*
>
> ***Bob Carter***

Dyke reiterated none of the $16 million would be paid for by the County. He said they were high-level costs and estimates only. As for servicing, there are other avenues of funding, he said. Dyke noted staff just wanted authorization to develop an agreement. They would wait to see if HHHS is approved, and for final costing before providing a recommendation. He added the County underwrote $6 million in loans when the two hospitals were built.

Coun. Murray Fearrey said it was "a huge leap of faith" and he is looking forward to more details.

Deputy warden Liz Danielsen added, "while there is some risk associated with this, the alternate risk is even greater to us…that is if HHHS defaults on their ability to move forward with long-term care, it lands in our lap, and to me that is a huge risk for us."

Dyke said all final paperwork would come back to council prior to passage.

Coun. Cec Ryall said he was in favour and hearing that, "all of our questions are either being answered, or are going to be answered, before this is done. I think we should just proceed with it, wait for the report to come back and make a decision at that time."

Council voted in favour of Dyke's recommendation; that he be directed to prepare a draft financing agreement between the County of Haliburton and Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) for the proposed expansion and consolidation of the HHHS long-term care facilities for Council's review and consideration; and further that the warden, on behalf of County council, is authorized to issue a letter of support to HHHS.

Editorial opinion

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LTC options need review

By Lisa Gervais

It's early days. The Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has not yet received approval from the province for its plan to expand long-term care at Hyland Crest in Minden.

However, HHHS staff cannot sit back and wait. They need to be ready in the event the province gives them the green light. A proposal to spend $49 million on a long-term care expansion in Minden would be the biggest project HHHS has ever embarked upon.

We learned last week that the province – if it approves the plan – would fund 68 per cent or $33 million of the price tag. That leaves 32 per cent, or $16 million, unfunded.

HHHS CAO Veronica Nelson and board chair, Irene Odell, came to County council recently to ask the municipality to consider applying for an Infrastructure Ontario loan on their behalf.

It's a smart ask. Most public long-term care homes in Ontario are run by municipalities: think Victoria Manor in Lindsay. It's run by the City of Kawartha Lakes. Here in the County, that isn't the case. HHHS oversees Hyland Crest in Minden and Highland Wood in Haliburton.

It's a relative breeze for municipalities to apply for Infrastructure Ontario loans; and they are handed out for long-term care.

For HHHS, getting such a loan would ensure affordable interest rates; there are flexible terms of up to 30 years; there is access to dedicated and experienced staff throughout the loan process; instant access to capital markets with no extra fees or commissions; and no need to refinance over the life of the loan. Chances are HHHS wouldn't get this from a bank or other lending institution.

County CAO Gary Dyke looked into the prospect and reported back to councillors last week. He said they are eligible to secure an Infrastructure Ontario loan to support the project. He emphasized HHHS would cover loan costs.

In his opinion, it would be an opportunity to support the expansion of LTC services with limited impact on County finances, while also providing significant savings for HHHS in the overall financing costs for the project.

He's not worried about the County maxxing out on loans, saying they would still be able to borrow more than $30 million if they needed the money for something.

Councillors had some concerns. As the folks representing us, and our money, we're glad they raised them.

Coun. Lisa Schell wanted to know what would happen in the unlikely event HHHS defaulted on loan payments.

From what I could find, in the unlikely event there is a default, there are processes in place to resolve the issue, including restructuring the financial agreement to facilitate full repayment of a loan, as well as the potential to intercept provincial payments to public sector borrowers. While unlikely to happen, the County needs to map out the best and worse case scenarios.

Coun. Bob Carter is worried the project won't come in at $49 million, but much more when factoring in sewer and water and other costs. He wanted to know what would happen if the price tag went to $60 million, and HHHS needed a $26 million loan. Dyke said there are other avenues of financing, not just an Infrastructure Ontario loan.

Deputy warden Liz Danielsen made a pretty good point. If HHHS isn't operating long-term care homes in the County, that responsibility would fall to the municipal sector. Pretty sure they don't want to take out a $16 million loan – on top of all of the other costs.

In the end, council got to where it should have. They have given Dyke and staff the green light to develop an agreement with HHHS. It will all come back to council before anything is approved.

But with waiting lists in Haliburton County of 206 people for Hyland Crest and 241 for Highland Wood – a total of 447 people waiting to be admitted to long-term care – with average wait times of five to seven years, and longer for men, all avenues have to be explored.

Building for brighter future

By Mike Baker

There was more good news from the airwaves of Haliburton County's community radio station this week.

Following a lengthy two-year application process, station manager Roxanne Casey said CanoeFM has been approved for a second radio frequency in Haliburton County. Available at 100.9 since its launch in 2003, Canoe can now also be found at 97.1. She said this is being done to improve radio signals in the southwestern portions of the County, particularly around Minden.

It was no small feat – staff had to jump through hoops to secure special permission for a licence through the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission and Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada. It also came at quite the cost, just shy of $43,000.

But the benefits are long-lasting and far-reaching. The licence runs to 2032 and addresses dead zones in some of the County's most populated areas where residents have always struggled to get a signal.

Canoe is an invaluable asset to the Highlands. Following the well-paved path of the community radio station model in Canada - meaning it operates as a non-profit on a limited budget – Canoe is a good source of news and entertainment to many. Casey said the station's goal is simple – to purely and unashamedly promote all that makes Haliburton County what it is.

These types of operations are by no means unique – a quick look at CRTC records shows there are at least 211 such stations in Canada, including 39 in Ontario. Canoe does, however, stand out for serving one of the smallest population bases and widest geographical areas.

That brings with it a wealth of challenges – primarily on costs for service delivery. This enhancement was the station's biggest financial undertaking in years. It was paid for in-house with funds raised through Radio Bingo.

This is where Canoe stands alone. Launched in 2015 to help the station cover day-to-day operating expenses, the over-the-airwaves game has taken on a life of its own. Staggeringly so. After taking what's needed to keep the lights on, Casey said the station funnels all remaining funds back into the community.

She estimates around $600,000 has been donated to about 50 County non-profits over the past decade. Emergency operations like the 4Cs Food Bank, Minden Community Food Centre, Central Food Network and Haliburton County Heat Bank are regular beneficiaries, so too leading social advocates like Places for People, on housing, and Point in Time, for childrens' services.

Other groups and causes to see support over the years include: Families in Motion, Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library, Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails, Razzamataz Kids' Shows, the Haliburton County Folk Society, Highlands Little Theatre, U-Links Centre for Community Based Research, and Friends of the Haliburton County Rail Trail.

Needless to say, that money has done a lot of good in a lot of places. For many, Canoe is the calm helping to navigate choppy waters. Its fingerprints are all over the many threads that make up the fabric of our community.

With this new licence in place, the future appears bright for the station. With an increased audience, there's hope that things like Radio Bingo will go from strength to strength. That Canoe can keep on, and potentially ramp up, investing in our community.

You can help with that mission. Canoe is looking for more helping hands, people willing to volunteer their time to keep the wheels in motion. Learn more at canoefm.com/about/volunteers.

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Left: Randy Barber caught this sleepy owl drifting off along Harburn Road. Right: Terry Mason sent this photo of a Barred Owl snoozing on a Sunday morning on Moose Lake.

LETTERS

Why I'm sleeping in cars

Dear editor

Life has a peculiar way of introducing us to those who could benefit from a simple act of kindness. Let me share a story about 'Adam,' a young man who crossed my path one day.

It was evident that Adam had faced challenging circumstances; he had been living in a tent behind a church, occasionally receiving soup and coffee from well-meaning passersby, despite being advised against it.

When I first saw Adam, I felt an immediate urge to engage with him. I wondered if anyone knew his name. Gathering my courage, I approached him and introduced myself.

"Hi, I'm Cathy. What's your name?" With a warm smile, he responded. "Adam." At 33, Adam had skills as a bricklayer but lacked the necessary trades papers and had lost his car.

Adam's demeanour was both polite and grateful. He exhibited no signs of substance abuse or mental health issues. Feeling a sense of compassion and without hesitation, I invited Adam to stay at my home for the night. Despite my son's reservations, who thought I was being too nice, I felt no fear or concern.

Adam stayed in my basement apartment, took a much-needed shower, and donned my son's clothes. I did his laundry and prepared a hearty meal for him. He expressed his gratitude, mentioning that he had enjoyed a good night's sleep. The following morning, I drove Adam to town, where he had an appointment to discuss potential job opportunities and shelter arrangements.

This experience is a testament to why I advocate for those at risk of homelessness, whether individuals or families. They all have a name, a story, and a potential for a better future.

That's why I am taking part in Places for People's Sleeping in Cars events March 21.

Cathy McIlmurray
Haliburton

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

This Gen Z'er is alright

By Susan Tromanhauser

Young people born in the 2000s, labeled Generation Z, have been stereotyped as entitled, tech obsessed and unwilling to work. Anyone who buys into this stereotype has never met Bronson McCord

The 20-year-old Algonquin Highlands resident works full-time during the day for Northern HVAC, works part-time evenings at Rhubarb in Carnarvon, and saves the weekend for his own landscaping and odd jobs business.

All of these jobs weren't McCord's first plan. Originally, his dream job was to become a TSN sports broadcaster. Graduating with honours from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, he was accepted to the journalism program at Dalhousie University. He got a summer job to pay for his schooling and started the Monday after completing high school. He never left.

McCord discovered he enjoyed the work and if he stayed, he could get paid to go to school. After much soul searching, he withdrew his acceptance from Dalhousie and embarked on a career in the trades. He had taken some woodworking in high school but most of his courses were more academically-focused, such as history and English. Kieran Gillooley, owner of Northern HVAC, arranged through government grants for McCord to attend HiMARK Occupational Skills Training Centre tuition-free. Through this co-op program in Barrie, McCord completed the gas fitting program as a G2 licence holder.

McCord's earliest years were in Haliburton, but the ages of three to seven were "all over the place," including Moose Jaw, Huntsville, Gravenhurst and Washago. When he was placed in the foster system at seven, his grandmother adopted him and he returned to Haliburton County. He is very grateful for his grandmother and has lived with her on Little Hawk Lake Road ever since. Elementary school at Archie Stouffer in Minden was an introduction to sports and friends with whom he is still in touch today. After high school, much of his cohort left for post-secondary education as he intended to, but McCord has no regrets. Haliburton County has everything he needs. Except concerts. He has become a fan of country music and enjoys traveling to Toronto and beyond to see his favourite bands.

Bronson McCord. *Submitted.*

When not working or attending concerts, he plays weekly in a men's basketball league at Hal High. While his girlfriend is not a local girl, he met her in true Haliburton fashion, around a campfire at a party he was invited to last minute after running into school friends at Boshkung Social. McCord sees a future with his girlfriend, who is currently attending York University on the path to law school. His ultimate goal is a "1950s lifestyle of family, children, a pet, and a home." McCord acknowledges home ownership is a challenge, but he is willing to work hard, save, and be on the look out for the right place, hopefully in Haliburton County.

No matter what McCord decides to do, with his work ethic, his future looks bright. No need to worry about Generation Z, the kids are alright.

Highlander news

‘No intention of ever ending’ Minden clinic

By Mike Baker

The urgent care clinic in Minden has assisted more than 7,000 patients over the past 12 months, with Marina Hodson – executive director of its operator, the Kawartha North Family Health Team (KNFHT) – saying that’s helped relieve pressure at the Haliburton emergency department.

The facility opened June 30, 2023, a month after Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) shuttered the Minden ER.

During its first operational year, to March 31, 2024, the clinic treated 4,479 people. Hodson said those numbers are up this fiscal year, between April 1, 2024 and March 13, staff at the clinic assisted 7,041 patients.

“Just being able to see as many people as we are,” Hodson said, when asked what she was most proud of as the clinic approaches its second anniversary. “The biggest win is just seeing the number of people we’re diverting from the emergency department.”

Operating full-time seven days a week, the facility is open for walk-ins for same-day, urgent, non-emergency health care from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, closing on Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

That’s to support a new appointment-based system the clinic introduced following the Christmas holidays, Hodson said.

Patients can call ahead to schedule times for things like refilling prescriptions.

“We don’t want people who are needing a renewal to have to sit in the ER for hours with people who are sick, might have the flu, and have the possibility of catching and spreading something,” Hodson said. “We’re really happy with how that’s going.”

She said the change, while controversial when announced, has been well received.

Returning to head up KNFHT earlier this year after about eight months away, Hodson said she plans to stick around to help stabilize the clinic. She’s been in constant contact with HHHS CEO Veronica Nelson, saying the two “work really closely to make sure this clinic runs smoothly.”

Hodson said the recent addition of gynecology services in Minden were “a collaborative effort.”

With HHHS recently announcing plans to move its Haliburton long-term care beds to Minden, seeking around $49 million in provincial funding to add 98-beds to the 62 already in place at Hyland Crest, Hodson said she was supportive of the proposal.

“It’s a good opportunity for greater access to care. If they’re expanding long-term care, hopefully there will be an opportunity to work together to ensure those residents have the opportunity to receive the care and services they need,” she said.

Hodson said KNFHT is lobbying Ontario Health for extra money, with the organization seeking to solidify services in Minden.

Asked about any plans to expand or introduce new features, Hodson said, “I think that’s a question of funding. We would need increased funding. We’re always looking to increase service delivery, always asking the government to recognize how under-serviced rural communities are, especially Haliburton.

Marina Hodson is back at the KNFHT helm, overseeing the urgent care clinic in Minden. *File.*

“Want to improve what we’re doing, but those things always come with a price.”

The clinic largely sees people without a family doctor, with the Ministry informing *The Highlander* in December there are 3,080 people from the County and Kawartha Lakes on a waitlist with Health Care Connect.

Hodson said, “we have no intention of ever ending the clinic,” though noting its operations are dependent on ministry funding. She did not disclose annual running costs, nor how much KNFHT gets, though noted expenses have been, “more than we anticipated, which is one of the serious challenges we face.”

The clinic was shuttered 14 times in 2024, and was closed March 17, with Hodson saying finding people to cover full-time staff who are sick or on holidays remains a challenge.

There has to be a registered practical nurse, nurse practitioner, and reception staff for the facility to open.

“It’s really difficult to find a nurse practitioner who’s just sitting at home waiting for somebody to take vacation so they can pick up a shift – all of our part-timers have full-time jobs elsewhere,” Hodson said. “It’s a tough problem to solve… we have far more replacements available on the weekends than we do to cover weekday shifts. It’s a problem a lot of facilities like this face.”

She said talks will ramp up with ministry officials again this week, with premier Doug Ford announcing his new cabinet March 19. Details were not available by press time.

Textile Recycling

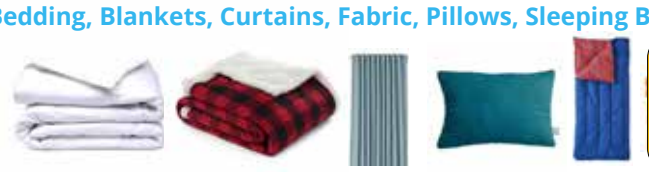
Along with donating gently used clothing to the Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store and the SIRCH Community Services’ Thrift Warehouse, Dysart ratepayers can drop off textiles for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

Place textiles in clear bags to help keep materials dry.

☑ Items you wear “head to foot” (including undergarments)
Clothes (including undergarments and socks), Hats, Scarves, Ties, Jackets, Coats, Belts, Shoes (including single shoes), Jewelry, Purses, Backpacks)

Single and paired shoes accepted

☑ Bedding, Blankets, Curtains, Fabric, Pillows, Sleeping Bags, Towels



Success!
In 2024, Dysart collected 28.85 metric tonnes (63,603 lbs) of textiles for recycling!

☑ While textiles should be clean, our textile recycling program also accepts torn, worn out, stained or scrap textiles.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

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HALIBURTON LEGION
BAR OPENS AT 5:00 PM
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$50.00/person
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Contact Linda at 705 457-2064 for credit card purchases
or at HHOA on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am to 2pm at
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The wild game served at this event has not been inspected
under the R.S.O meat inspection act.
Domestic meat available

Canoe sends waves across Minden

By Mike Baker

Roxanne Casey, station manager at CanoeFM, said she wouldn't take no for an answer after spending the past two years lobbying the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for an updated broadcasting licence.

The federal body put a moratorium on processing and approving new applications in August 2023, while working to modernize regulatory plans for Canadian broadcasting. Casey was approximately six months deep on a proposal to bolster Canoe's radio signal across Haliburton County.

Using funds raised through its popular Radio Bingo game, the station wanted to address one of many dead zones across the region where residents struggle to get a signal. Minden, Wilberforce, Gooderham and Cardiff were all considered.

A two-week pilot project in spring 2023 led to Casey applying for a secondary transmitter to be installed on a tower along Scotch Line Road in Minden, with an aim of improving service to people in the southwestern portions of the County. On Feb. 3, the station received special approval from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) after the CRTC ratified an exemption.

"It almost didn't happen – at the time [of the moratorium announcement] they said there wasn't going to be any new licences issues period. We had to send a letter to say we had an ongoing application in process, we had gotten prices, done a lot of work and spent a lot of money. It all would have been for nothing if we weren't able to move ahead," Casey told *The Highlander* March 17.

Now, listeners will be able to tune into Canoe on both 100.9 and 97.1. Casey said the licence for the latter runs until 2032.

Testing conducted in 2023 was vital to the project's approval, Casey noted, with data gathered from specialized equipment revealing much of Minden experienced unreliable reception due to challenging terrain.

"They recognized that rural areas like Minden deserve a strong, reliable signal to access local news, programming, and community information," Casey said.

All told, the project cost the station just under $43,000. "It's the biggest project we've done for a while."

Casey said none of it would have been possible without Radio Bingo. Every Tuesday for the past 10 years, the station has broadcast games over the airwaves giving locals a chance to win big. After prizes are dished out, what's left is split between Canoe and important community causes. To date, around 50 non-profits have benefitted to the tune of approximately $600,000.

"The money goes to our food banks, the Haliburton County Heat Bank – we try to support all the not-for-profits that might need a leg up. Most have received something from us over the years," Casey said.

She hopes to expand the station's reach even more in future, mentioning Cardiff and Tory Hill as areas in need of better service. Nothing is imminent, Casey said, with the CRTC moratorium in-place until at least August.

Station manager Roxanne Casey said a new frequency tower in Minden has been live since Feb. 3. *File.*

"We will look at something else – it all depends on funding. It's a really big process, it took us two years to move forward with this project, but the conversations were going on much longer than that," she said.

Immediate focuses include improving the station's website and attracting more volunteers. Casey said Canoe is developing an online portal that will highlight available openings and offer tasters on various roles. There will also be a virtual sign-up sheet for those who want to get involved.

"We've had people move away, everyone is getting older… we need to look at how we can engage younger volunteers to help out and take more of an interest," Casey said.

A ribbon cutting will be held in Minden celebrating the improved service in the spring.

Highlander news

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2024045: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of 1108 Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

2. File No. PLSRA2024047: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of parcel having roll number 4616-051-000-19000 on Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **April 11, 2025**.
AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than April 11, 2025.
AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

PLSRA2024045

PLSRA2024047

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

STR update

Highlands East junior planner Kim Roberts told council at a March 11 meeting that short-term rental (STR) licence applications, and questions, had increased steadily in January and February. She added the STR licensing clerk had been reaching out to renters via social media and emails.

She said the township had collected $15,000 in licensing fees to date. She further estimated they have reached 14.5 per cent of an estimated 207 STRs in HE.

Roberts said seven applications had been rejected due to insufficient septic capacity.

Updating council on enforcement of the bylaw, Roberts said non-compliance of structures, so buildings, decks, septic systems etc., could be subject to building code orders.

As for operating without a licence, she said the township can issue warnings, then administrative penalties and orders, with unpaid penalties added to the tax roll, and finally, legal action. CAO Brittany McCaw added there are "hefty" fines in the bylaw, as much as $50,000.

Licenced operators breaking the rules could face demerits, licence suspension, and fines.

Roberts said they would start enforcement in June.

"While staff will always take an education-first approach with operators, staff do intend to enforce the bylaw consistently and with all of the tools available to us," Roberts said.

She also updated council on the configuration of the STR bylaw appeals committee. Warden Dave Burton is the chair, with Coun. Sabrina Richards (Algonquin Highlands), Coun. Carm Sawyer (Dysart et al), Coun. Angela Lewis (Highlands East) and Coun. Ivan Ingram (Minden Hills) the members.

New landfill hours

Council signed off on new landfill hours across the township.

The move followed public consultation in February, in which nearly 75 per cent of respondents endorsed the new hours.

Public works manager Perry Kelly said, "benefits to amending the current waste site hours include: all opening and closing times will be consistent within all sites; and the start of winter hours and summer hours for all waste sites will have a definitive date of execution."

The new hours will go into effect May 1.

Herlihey Park summer opening

Kelly said the large amount of snow "had kind of put a little bit of a stop" on work at Herlihey Park.

However, he said they had been in touch with contractor, Francis Thomas Contracting, who said they had ordered trees and anticipated getting back to work as soon as weather permits.

Coun. Angela Lewis said she had been getting questions from the public on the park and wanted a more fulsome update.

Kelly said he thought the park would be complete in June or July. He said walking paths are roughed in, and work is continuing in the beach area. Retaining walls and tree planting will be done in spring.

"I am happy to say that we are moving very quickly now that we have the contractor in place."

He is hoping for a summer grand opening.

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Split pension income with your spouse and save.
Pension income splitting can reduce the taxes you or your spouse owe. If you qualify, our Tax Experts can help you make the most of the pension income tax credit and keep more of your money. You've worked hard all these years and it's time to finally enjoy your free time.
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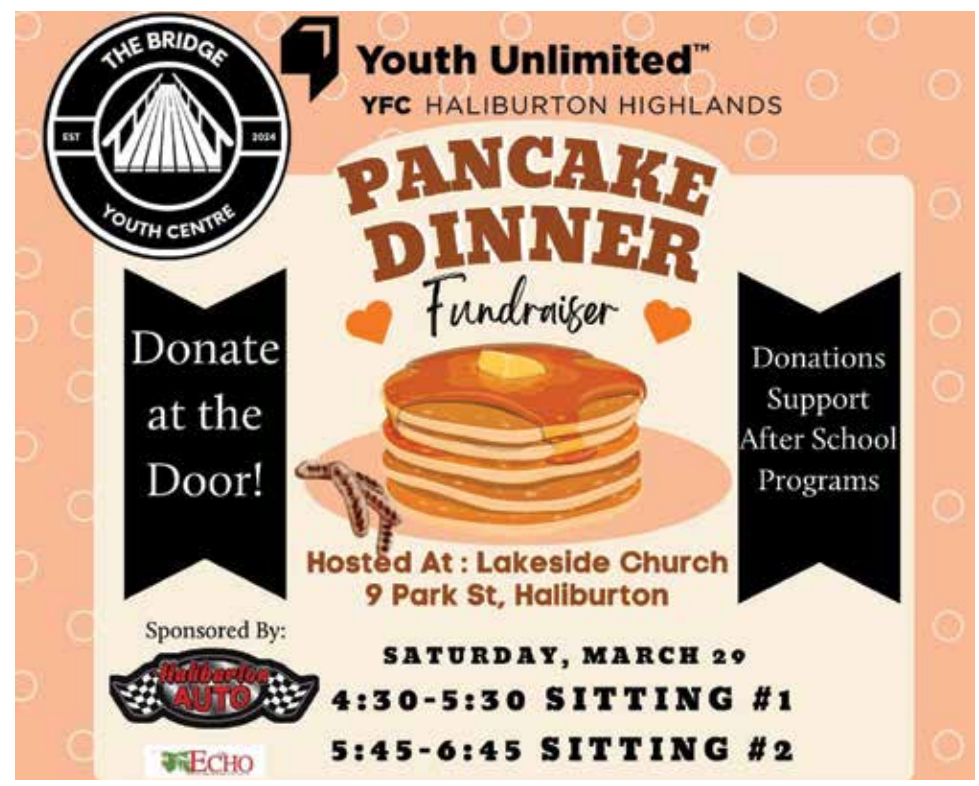
HRBLOCK.CA | 1–800–HRBLOCK (472–5625)
*Complex and Premier returns only. Visit an H&R Block location for details. Valid only at participating locations. Offer excludes H&R Block Instant Refund™. Must be 65 years or older to qualify.
62 Maple Ave., Haliburton
705-457-1676
87 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden
705-286-6916
Let our 100+ years of combined experience work for you



HSAD student residence build wraps up

By Mike Baker

Fleming College staff say "there have not been any significant delays" with the ongoing 47-bed student residence build at the Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD), touting an opening some time this year.

The school's communications lead, Asher Lurie, told *The Highlander* in a March 14 email that work is still underway on land overlooking the campus inside Glebe Park. Construction crews broke ground on the $16 million development in December 2023, with college administration estimating the facility would be move-in ready by early 2025.

The new HSAD student residence will open this year, Fleming College staff say. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

"Like any project of this size, there can be minor slowdowns due to supply chain issues, inclement weather etc.," Lurie said. "The residence remains on schedule to open in 2025."

He said construction has largely wrapped, with workers now "in the process of completing any identified deficiencies with the project... and completing some outdoor landscaping."

> *The residence remains on schedule to open in 2025.*
>
> ***Asher Lurie***

Once open, it will boast 27 units - seven individual suites and 20 two-bedroom apartments.

The Haliburton campus was the only Fleming-operated site to escape widespread program cuts last year after the federal government introduced new limits on international student intake.

Twenty-nine courses in Peterborough and Lindsay were scrapped, with Fleming president Maureen Adamson estimating the cap would mean a $40 million annual revenue loss for the college. At its peak, the institution reported 4,000 of a total 7,200 students were international.

Lurie said the impact in Haliburton has been negligible since the new rules came into place in January 2024, though warned changes could be on the horizon.

"Enrolment in classes at the Haliburton campus has remained consistent between 2023/24 and 2024/25 at a low level. International revenue has previously been used to subsidize these courses, and we are exploring innovative options for program delivery," Lurie said.

Fleming released its 2025 course calendar March 3, highlighting summer programming and fall options. As of now, all 10 full-time programs in Haliburton will return, including the artist blacksmith, glassblowing, ceramics, jewellery making, and fine arts courses.

There are dozens of options for people throughout the summer, including new offerings in arts commerce, small business planning, oil painting, weaving, musical theatre, screenwriting, and folkloric ceramics.

"We are extremely excited about these programs – many of them are open to all skill and experience levels, so you'll be able to take something from them whether you're new to the craft, an expert, or anywhere in between," Lurie said.

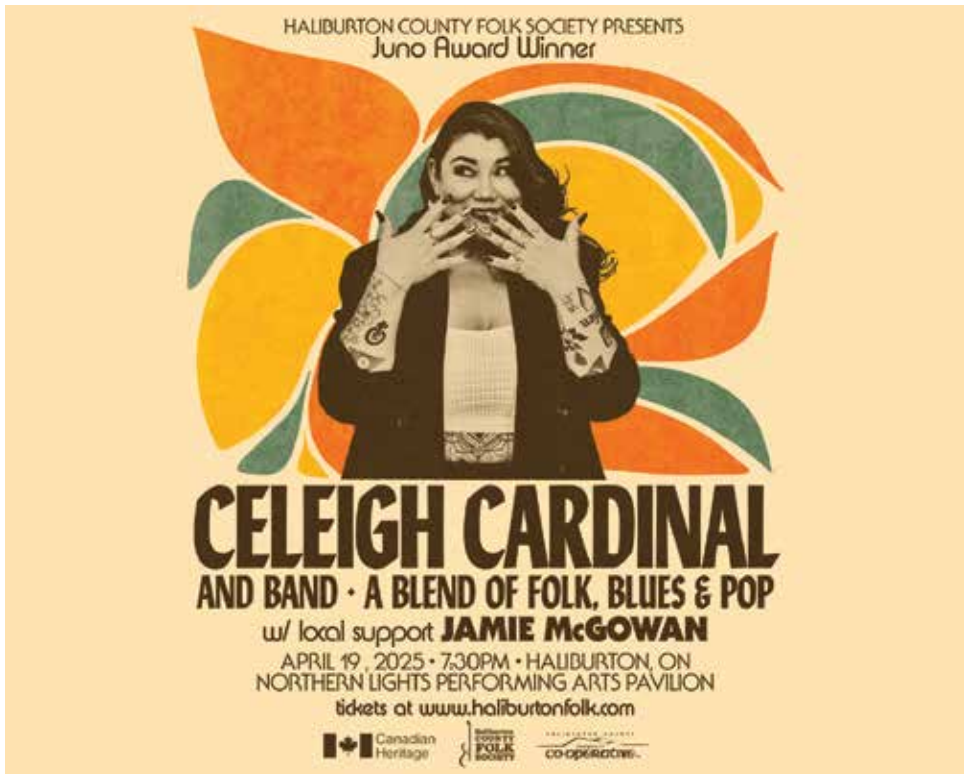
HSAD is hosting an open house March 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering prospective students a peek behind the campus' red doors.

Staff will lead tours of the facility, while students and instructors in the glass, ceramic and jewellery studios lead live demonstrations. Lurie said academic coordinators will be available to answer questions about certificate and diploma programs in drawing and painting, fibre arts, and visual/creative arts.

Representatives from Fleming Crew, Minden Pride, and the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands will also be in attendance.

"We hope to showcase the supportive community and strong industry connections that make Fleming a great place to learn and grow," Lurie said.

For a full list of programs, visit flemingcollege.ca/hsad.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AND BAND · A BLEND OF FOLK, BLUES & POP
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APRIL 19, 2025 · 7:30PM · HALIBURTON, ON
NORTHERN LIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION
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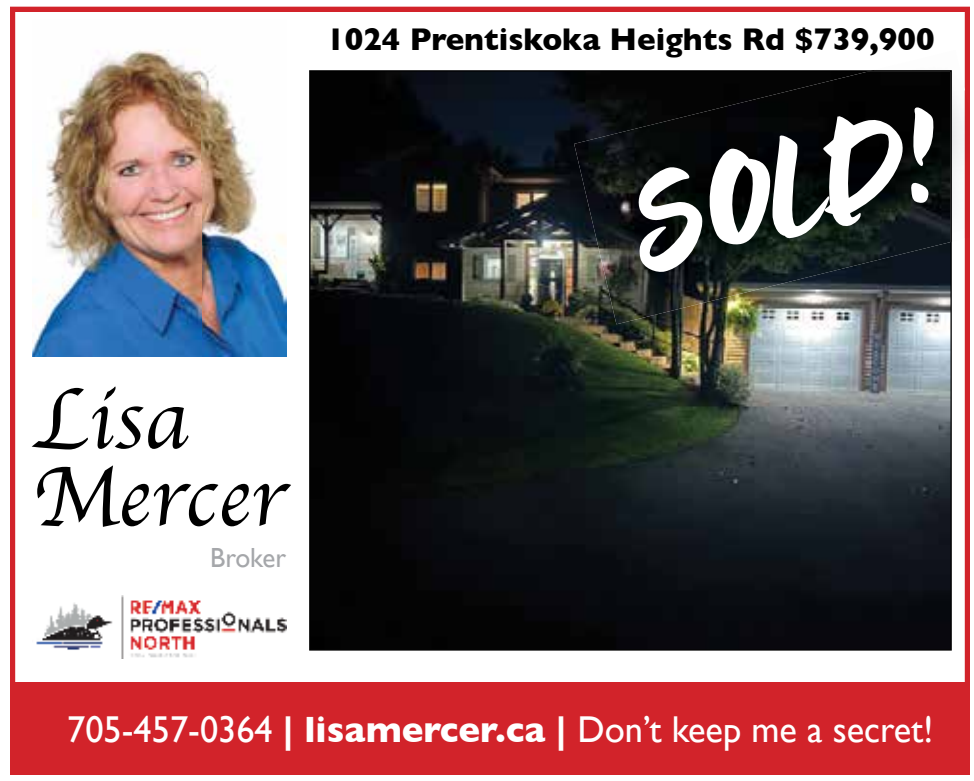

Highlander people

Forest's Cockwell wins prestigious gong

By Lisa Gervais

Forests Canada Award winner Malcolm Cockwell, left, with Forests Canada CEO Jess Kaknevicius. *Submitted.*

Haliburton's Malcolm Cockwell won The Forests Canada Award for "his outstanding achievements in, and contributions to, the field of forestry in Canada and beyond," at the Forests Canada conference in Mississauga Feb. 19-20.

A Registered Professional Forester who holds a Bachelor of Science and a PhD from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry, Cockwell is the managing director of the Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve, and served on the Forests Canada board for more than 10 years, including as chair.

Forests Canada said Cockwell is also a leader within the forest sector, acting as chair of Acadian Timber Corp., acquiring several Canadian forest businesses, and bringing global innovations to Canada.

"He was instrumental in helping to shape the national direction for Forests Canada and was valued for his time, experience, and knowledge, as well as the important business lens he brought to the organization."

Cockwell told *The Highlander* March 18, that serving on the board of directors of Forests Canada over the past decade had been a highlight of his career. He added spending five of those years as chair was "very rewarding, as we secured additional resources for the organization's tree planting and community outreach initiatives and embraced a national mandate to operate across the entire country."

Looking ahead, he said, "Forests Canada is in great shape, with an exceptional team led by Jessica Kaknevicius as the CEO and Christine Leduc as the new chair. I am proud of what the organization has accomplished and will continue supporting its programs as a member."

As for the award, Cockwell said he was deeply honoured. "It was humbling to receive the award because previous recipients include many of the 'greats' in Canadian forestry, such as Harvey Anderson, who is arguably the godfather of modern hardwood silviculture in Ontario, as well as the team of forestry professionals who developed the provincial tree marking program."

The conference brought experts from different fields together to talk about how to conserve, restore, and grow Canada's forests.

See more at ForestsCanada.ca/Conference

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Junior highlanders

Hal High students showcased in Bancroft

By Lisa Gervais

Student artists from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School shared their creative works in the third annual under-19 juried exhibition at the Art Gallery of Bancroft. Thirteen artists submitted a total of 17 creative works in the regional showcase, juried by visual artist and educator, Henry Melissa Gordon, from Guelph.

Several Red Hawk artists received recognition, including Gr. 12 student Olivia Brown, who's still life drawing Moments in Time, received the best drawing award. Gordon described Brown's work as "skillful and interesting." She notes that "it feels like a personal collection of objects that tells us something about the artist. It takes lots of drawing skill to show the different textures of hair, fabric, flowers, a screen, book cover and pages, and a ceramic mug."

Gr. 10 artist Sophia Burke received the award for best painting or mixed media work, for her acrylic on canvas entitled If you're so full of love, why don't you give yourself some? Gordon said Burke's painting "beautifully captures a quiet, introspective moment. The composition feels right…I love the gold highlights where the legs and arms disappear into the water. The title really deepens our understanding of the painting."

Gr. 9 student Annika Gervais also received an honourable mention in the category for her mixed media work Open Your Eyes. Gordon wrote, "there is a great progression in this artwork, from overwhelm and anxiety to hopefulness. The combination of drawing and collage works well to support this powerful message"

Teacher Karen Gervais said it was a bittersweet moment for student artist Annabelle Borgdorff, who has participated in the show since its inauguration. Borgdorff will graduate this year and she took some time to reflect on this movement in her life in her mixed media work, The Final Curtsy.

An opening reception was held March 6, attended by many of the student artists. The exhibition is presented by Karen and Gord Savage and runs at the Art Gallery of Bancroft until March 29.

Above: Annika Gervais with Open Your Eyes. Far left: Alivia Brown shares her oil pastel drawings. Inset: Olivia Brown with Moments in Time. *Submitted.*

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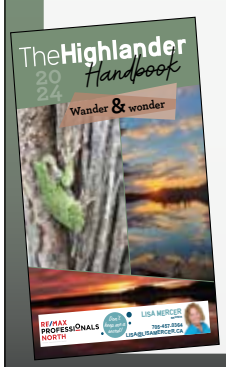

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Above: Klara Oyler receives her King Charles III Coronation Medal from MPP Laurie Scott. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*
Inset: MP Jamie Schmale presents a King Charles III Coronation Medal to Wayne Krangle. *Submitted.*

King Charles hasn't quite left the County

By Lisa Gervais

Klara Oyler thought she was joining MPP Laurie Scott at the Haliburton County Huskies game March 15 for a ceremonial puck drop – until the politician surprised her with a King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Oyler said she was "surprised and overwhelmed" but, upon refection, "I have been extremely fortunate, after moving to Haliburton upon retirement, in being privileged to be involved in a variety of groups.

"I have been part of many projects that have made a huge impact on our community. Meeting so many people, who have been dedicated to their missions and projects, has really pushed me to think outside the box and dig deep to learn new skills, as well as adapting those skills I already had. I feel very lucky being involved in a most positive way in our community. I feel fortunate that I am able to call many of those people who offered me the opportunities, my friends."

Oyler's volunteer record includes: The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (20 years, including six months on campaign cabinet for the Here for You campaign), Ontario Trillium Foundation (10 years to present), Minden Hills Santa Claus parade (10 years), Minden Hills Canada Day committee (10 years), Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library (eight years and counting), Minden Hills Timbersport/Timberfest committee (six years), Minden Hills cultural centre committee and foundation (four years), Minden Hills new library fundraising committee (four years), R.D. Lawrence Place Minden fundraising committee (four years), the Huskies (four years to present), Ontario senior winter games (two years), Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame (one year to present), Water Ambassadors Canada, Haliburton County (three years), and the vaccination clinics during COVID.

Dale Walker, former head of the HHHSF, nominated Oyler, whom she said, "volunteered for everything that came along, as well as being in the office. But she was involved in so many other things, it only seemed right."

Scott had five King Charles III Coronation Medals to hand out, with Oyler being the only one in the County for the provincial member.

"There's nobody more well-deserving. I think Klara has volunteered for more years than people usually work in their lifetime at a job. She selflessly works on so many things. She does have a good time, but the community does not function without volunteers and Klara is the epitome of a volunteer in Haliburton County."

Other medal winners

In 2006-07, Chuck Krangle completed a combat tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Upon his return to Canada, his dad, Wayne Krangle, wanted to find a way to give back. Since 2008, Wayne has been the founder of 'syrup for soldiers.' On his property in the Highlands, he taps trees, processes, and sells syrup. He has raised close to $100,000 for Wounded Warriors Canada.

Wayne said the honour came as a surprise. Chuck, who's just retired as a police officer, told him he was getting the award. They went to Jamie's Schmale office March 15.

"Gobsmacked," Wayne said of the surprise. He said he had been phoning some of the people who had helped him make it possible. "It didn't happen on its own. A lot of people along the way have volunteered their time. This is my 16th year, so I didn't start yesterday."

Steve Cooper of Gooderham also received a medal March 19; for a lifetime commitment to cadets.

Nicholls excited about upcoming nationals

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton's Owen Nicholls is off to Summerside, PEI, where he will compete in the 2025 Canadian Under-21 Men's Championship March 22-30.

The winners will earn the opportunity to represent Canada at the 2026 World Junior Championships.

Nicholls will throw third, after lead Wyatt Wright, second Liam Tardif, and before skip Tyler MacTavish.

While the local curler is attending Carleton University, his teammates are in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Despite that, Nicholls is not overly concerned about the lack of practice time as a foursome.

"We try to get out on the ice as much as possible individually. I'm thankful that in Ottawa there are lots of curling clubs. I do league play twice a week, and I try to get out on practice ice when my home club, the Rideau Club, offers it.

He also represents the Carleton Ravens university team. His squad captured a silver medal at the 2025 university nationals in Lethbridge, Alberta Feb. 24-28.

Ironically, he's curled against his lead, Wright, at university events this season.

"So, I see him. The rest of them I haven't really seen, so it's been a while, but thankfully it's something that we're used to. We kind of do it all season; where we're apart and then we come together. This one's a little different. We've been separated since the end of January and haven't really been together.

Owen Nicholls is off to the U21 Nationals starting this weekend in PEI. *Submitted.*

"Luckily, for all of us, we've been to nationals before, so we know that we definitely have to augment our level of play to match what we're going to see there. We know there are going to be some big names. We're going to have to play the best we can. I think it will be a quite good run for us."

Personally, he is pleased with his curling.

"I've actually been feeling like I've been throwing the rock better than I ever have. I've done lots of work this season on my delivery, all the technical stuff, and I've been feeling like I've been playing well. My statistics show that I've been playing well, and I'm very excited to see what we can do in PEI."

Nicholls said he's becoming more comfortable representing on a national stage but still finds the experience exhilarating.

"I'm very thankful that I've been on quite a number of good teams that I've had a lot of success with. That starstruck feeling of walking into the arena, feeling like a professional almost, I'm getting a little more accustomed to that. But it will never not be new to me. It will never not be a shocking experience to go somewhere out of province to represent your province on the national stage. But, thankfully, it's not something that I see as affecting my game as much as just my experience."

He also anticipates lots of support from home.

"It's nice because we get to livestream our games, so everybody gets to watch. It's quite astonishing to see the amount of support that I actually have. After an event, I always get messages, not just from family, but friends, telling me it's just amazing how I've come out of a small town and been so successful."

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The Huskies

Captain Raine Nadeau locks down the blue line in Saturday's 2-1 defeat against the St. Michael's Buzzers in Minden. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Huskies prepare for Junior Canadiens

By Lisa Gervais

After dispatching the St. Michael's Buzzers four games to two in the first round of the playoffs, the Haliburton County Huskies are preparing for a tough match-up against the Toronto Junior Canadiens in round two.

After getting back from Toronto March 16, the coaching staff was back at it March 17, watching video of their second-round opponents.

The Canadiens beat the Huskies three of four games this season: the blue and white won the first Sept. 15 by a tidy score of 4-0, dropped a Nov. 10 tilt 1-0, were bested 6-1 Jan. 11 and doubled 6-3 on Feb. 8.

Coach Ryan Ramsay said, "we're only one and three against them this year, but the last game was right after the trade deadline and no one really knew what they were doing. And the Nov. 10 game was close."

That said, the coach and general manager conceded, "they're definitely a good team. They are similar to us; the way they're built. It should be a great series."

While the bench bosses watch video, some of the underutilized players are getting on the practice ice this week. Others are licking wounds from a tough run down the stretch and six games against the Buzzers. The recovery time is welcome.

As to what they are seeing on video, "we are going to tweak some things and have a game plan and hopefully we can stick to it," Ramsay said.

"They have a lot of scoring, their power play is really good, if there are turnovers, they can score. They put up some numbers in that last series [beating the Cobourg Cougers in five games]. They're a very skilled, fast, team blessed with lots of offence, so we're going to have to limit turnovers and powerplays."

During short practices, the plan is to "work on what we need to do better and some things JRC does that we need to stop."

Buzzers beaters

The Huskies closed off the series against St. Michael's on the road March 16. Daniel Vasic scored his first of the post-season, at 5:33 of the first, assisted by Noah Lodoen. It was all the scoring the Huskies needed. Goalie Tyler Hodges shut the door, turning aside all 34 shots he faced.

The team was unable to close out at home, March 15, dropping a close 2-1 decision. Nathan Poole got the dogs on the board at just 13 seconds of the second period, with Tai York getting the dish. But the Buzzers scored at 45 seconds of the third to even things up. They cemented it with a late, 17:56 goal.

On March 13, the Huskies took another close one, by a score of 3-2. This one was a comeback after the Buzzers scored two first period goals. But, in the second, the Huskies tied it up. Nolan Ling scored at 3:04, from Alex Bradshaw and Deandres De Jesus; and Tai York potted the other at 11:29, from Poole and Ty Petrou. York scored the game winner at 3:18 of the third, from Petrou and Luke Hampel.

Ramsay said, "we'll take the (series) 4-2 win. Are we playing our best hockey right now? No."

However, playoffs are unpredictable, he added.

"We've had a lot of goals scored this year, which is great, but in this series, I think at one point our leading scorer going into game four didn't have a point in the series. There are always other guys that step up, which is great, and shows the depth we've been talking about with this group that we haven't had with other groups. And, Hodges has been great. You can't think about going far in playoffs without having the goaltending, and we have that."

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The Huskies

SCHEDULE vs JRC

It is a best of seven game series, asterisk indicated if needed

March 23, 7:15 p.m. AWAY

March 25, 7 p.m. HOME

March 26, 8 p.m. AWAY

March 29 4 p.m. HOME

March 30 7:15 p.m. AWAY*

April 1, 7 p.m. HOME*

April 2, 8 p.m. AWAY*

Top left: Nathan Poole parked in front of the net looking for a tip-in. Top right: Kieran Litterick awaits a pass as he storms towards the goal. Above right: Chase Lefebvre readies himself for the face-off. Middle left: Poole waits for the puck to come free. Above left: Poole digs in hard as he attacks the puck. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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JAMES PETTES

James has come to the rink every day and worked on his game and skating. James has been one of the team's most improved players this year.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

Remington Braun with his head up skating at the net. *Photos by Justin Belanger*

Highland Storm U7 head into last tourney

The Highland Storm U7 Smolen Dentistry hockey season has been an unforgettable adventure, with each moment bringing growth, excitement and teamwork.

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A heartfelt thank you goes to the coaches and parents for their unwavering support, dedication and encouragement. The coaches have done an amazing job guiding the players, with countless hours of dedication. Parents have been fantastic in fostering a positive cheering section on and off the ice. We are excited to carry this momentum into our last tournament of the season and look forward to next season with even more growth and fun. *(Submitted)*

SCORE BOARD

March 13

- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Sturgeon 5-0 W

March 15

- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Newcastle 9-3 L

March 16

- U9 Sharp Electric vs Brock 7-1 L
- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House vs Millbrook 6-2 L
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Muskies 3-1 W
- U11 Carquest Minden vs Brock 1-1 T

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Highlander events

Wings and wolves at the Forest...

The Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre hosted an event March 15 called Wings and Wolves. The workshop is put on to introduce, and educate people, about Grey wolves and the birds of prey at the centre.

Top left: Class is in session. Falconer Andrew Carroll teaches the group about Raptors. Top right: All snuggled up and comfy. Above left: All the better to see you with… Middle right: Carroll teaches everyone about Peregrine Falcons. Above right: Next up… a lesson on a fierce looking Harris' Hawk. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
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Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
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Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
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Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. March 24 and 31. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions at 2 p.m. March 26. Cost is $4 per player.

Cornhole at 7 p.m. March 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.

HHHS social recreation March 27 at 10 a.m.

Fish n' Chips Fridays March 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.

Wings and jam session March 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Seniors 55+ lunch March 28 and noon. Cost is $17 per person

Meat draw March 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.

Call the legion for more information at 705-448-2221.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk

General meeting - second Monday at 7:30 p.m.
Euchre - Tuesdays 1 p.m.
Open darts - Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Big buck bid euchre first Wednesday of the month, from 11 a.m., $15 per person.
Meat roll every Saturday at 3 p.m.
Lunch on the last Friday of the month, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., $15 per person

EVENTS

March 21, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands is hosting a seminar centred on 'support and independence: finding the right balance' at the Haliburton Legion. Discussion will surround keeping active, using available resources to live independently, and making your home safe and comfortable. Italian-themed dinner served by Molly's Bistro and Bakery. Event is also virtual. Register by calling Connie at 705-457-7215, or email constancewood@gmail.com.

March 21, 6 p.m. Places for People is hosting its annual Sleeping in Cars fundraiser in the Head Lake Park parking lot, with funds supporting operations and housing projects with the non-profit. To register, visit placesforpeople.ca.

March 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Spring open house at the Haliburton School of Art + Design. Attendees can engage live art demonstrations led by students and instructors, visit the student art exhibit in the great hall, and enjoy a walk along the adjacent Sculpture Forest trail. To register, visit flemingcollege.ca/myopenhouse.

March 22, 1 to 3 p.m. Opening reception for 'We're Still Talking' at Agnes Jamieson Gallery in Minden. Featuring textile artists Nadine Papp, Wendy Wood and Sandi Luck. Gallery is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd.

March 22, 1:30 p.m. Visit the Dysart and Minden Hills branches of the Haliburton County Public Library for a free screening of the new musical Wicked! Movie is rated PG. No registration required.

March 23, 2 to 4 p.m. Citizens for Crown Land Protection is hosting an open house at the Haliburton Legion for people opposed to the proposed Highlands Corridor and Milburn Kendrick Conservation Reserve. All are welcome.

March 26, 7:30 p.m. The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization is hosting its final Zoom seminar for 2025, featuring Kate Butler of the Haliburton Highlands Museum presenting on the Golden Slipper Dance Hall. Register online at lko.ca.

March 29, 1 p.m. Visit the Dysart and Minden Hills branches of the Haliburton County Public Library for a free screening of the new Disney feature Moana 2. Movie is rated PG. No registration required. Feel free to bring your own snacks.

March 29, 2:30 p.m. Skyline Dance Studio presents its 2025 Showcase from the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Featuring all pre-competitive numbers from the studio's talented young dancers. Show length is approximately two hours and 45 minutes, with a second performance at 6:30 p.m. For tickets visit onstagedirect.com/buy/event_info.action?eventId=2359&token=F66799AF86.

March 29, 4:30 p.m. Youth Unlimited has an upcoming pancake dinner fundraiser, hosted at Lakeside Church in Haliburton. By donation. There will be a second sitting at 5:45. Proceeds to support spring and after-school programming at the new Bridge Youth Centre.

March 29, 5 p.m. HHOA wild game dinner at the Haliburton Legion. Door and bar opens at 5 p.m, dinner served at 6:30 p.m. There will be a silent auction and 50/50 draw. Tickets are $50 per person. Available over the phone by calling Laurie at 705-457-9664, or Linda at 705-457-2064, or by visiting the HHOA office Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, visit hhoa.on.ca.

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Solo and group vision on display at AJG

By Lisa Gervais

When the Agnes Jamieson Gallery reopens its doors to the public today (March 20), a new group exhibit, entitled We're Still Talking, will be on display.

The gallery is featuring the work of Nadine Papp, Wendy Wood and Sandi Luck.

Shannon Kelly, manager of cultural services for the Township of Minden Hills, said, "We're Still Talking is an exhibit about relationships. About three friends and fibre artists that travelled together to a small remote island for 10 days to pursue their individual and joint artistic vision."

She added their experimentation with materials and plant dyes will be showcased in this "unique" group exhibition.

The exhibit will be on display at the gallery from March 20 to May 10. The opening reception with the artists takes place on Saturday, March 22, from 1-3 p.m. It is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Kelly said Papp is a fibre artist working with a variety of materials that help her create different pieces of art. "Her love of all things natural inspire the cloth she stitches, dyes, cuts and forms. Her focus is on repetitive stitch, which is recognizable in her works."

Wood is a multidisciplinary artist, who has been creating art her whole life. She started as an electrical draftsperson, and the love of using a pencil led to a career in landscape painting. She was introduced to crochet at a very young age and that appreciation of fibre crept back into her life in woven form.

Kelly said, "after years of painting and weaving, the two very different art forms have begun to merge into Wendy's work; a combination of colour and texture, paint and fibre, an exploration that is just beginning."

Luck is a fibre artist residing in Haliburton. Her current practice explores themes of fantastical nature through embellished felt jewellery, natural dyes and botanical prints. Kelly said, "she employs bright colours and multiple layers of stitch, beading and natural fibre to create texture and whimsy."

Her work has been featured in *Fiber Art Now* magazine, *Worldwide Colors of Felt* and other publications, in addition to many Haliburton County exhibitions, most recently at Fleming College Faculty Exhibition 2024.

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is a public gallery with year-round visual exhibitions of local and regional art. It is part of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, which also includes the Heritage Village & Nature Place Interpretive Centre. The Gallery is fully accessible. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden and is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation. For questions about this exhibit, call the community services department at 705-286-1260 x 542. For more information, visit the Township of Minden Hills website at mindenhills.ca

Pictured right: Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp, and Wendy Wood travelled together to a small remote island. *Submitted.*

Top of the morning...

The Irondale Community Church put on a breakfast to celebrate St. Patrick's Day March 15. Folks from around town came by to enjoy some bacon, eggs and hashbrowns and a nice hot cup of coffee.

Top left: Linda Code watches in appreciation as the guests enjoy their breakfasts. Above: left to right, Caleb, Emmitt, Heidi, Beth McCarthy and "everyone knows George" Simmons. Far left: A table full of crafts and things that the Irondale Church is working on. Left: Glenda Simmons brings two hot plates to some hungry guests. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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FOR SALE – Rainbows for Stocking 8" fish available April 1st, contact halihhoa@gmail.com Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, 6712 Gelert Rd, Haliburton

FOR SALE – Pure, unpasteurized honey. Clover, Golden, Liquid & creamed. Pure honey helps with allergies. Call Tom for details at 705-286-3628 / 2801 Blair Hampton Road

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3,000th Blanket Celebration!

In appreciation for the **99,000 (8x8) squares** made for our blankets,we invite our knitters, crocheters and community to a Cupcake Tea:

Tuesday March 25th , 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Lower Level, Highland Hills United Church,21 Newcastle St.

Because of you, someone is warm tonight.

See our blanket display and receive information.

Highland Hills Outreach Project
Mary Trepanier | 705-286-5173

EVENTS

CITIZENS FOR CROWN LAND PROTECTION

C.C.L.P.

Invite you to join us for an

OPENHOUSE

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Sunday March 23, 2025

2-4PM

We must enlist our elected officials to stand with their constituents and DENY SUPPORT for the

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Summer Employment Opportunities

The Municipality of Highlands East is currently recruiting students for summer employment opportunities for the 2025 year.

If you are currently enrolled in secondary school or a post-secondary program and returning to school in the fall of 2025, you are encouraged to apply for an opportunity.

The following positions are available with the municipality:

- (1) Summer Parks & Recreation Attendant (Parks & Property Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (1) Cemetery Database Student (Parks & Property Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (1) Information Centre Student (Economic Development Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (2) Summer Landfill Attendants (Public Works Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (4) Various Lifeguard Positions (Summer Swim Program – 8 weeks)

Please note, for positions where you may be required to drive in the execution of your duties, a Class G2 or G Driver's Licence is mandatory. You will also be required to provide an acceptable driver's abstract and a criminal reference check.

Most positions listed above are available from the beginning of May through to the end of August for a total of 16 weeks. The Lifeguard positions are for a total of 8 weeks only.

If you are interested in receiving a more detailed job description for one of the positions noted above, please email bmccaw@highlandseast.ca requesting a copy of the specific posting.

If you are interested in applying, applications **clearly marked with the position you are applying for** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Monday, April 7th, 2025, via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.
Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

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THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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HELP WANTED

Township of Algonquin Highlands

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the following positions.

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Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job descriptions.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2025** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

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TheHighlander

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MAINTENANCE PERSON WANTED - Part time, seasonal, for resort property 2 kms from Haliburton. General upkeep, plus some carpentry, plumbing, electrical. Send info to: daveross59@gmail.com

OBITUARIES

In loving memory of

Sarah "Sally" Stirling

(nee Naismith)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sarah Stirling (nee Naismith) on March 3, 2025, at the age of 90. Sarah was born on July 31, 1934, in Toronto, the beloved daughter of Thomas and Sarah Naismith (both predeceased.)

Sarah was predeceased by her loving husband Robert and grandson James, who she is now reunited with. She is survived by her two devoted daughters, Janette (Frank) and Judi (Dan). She was a proud grandmother to Corinne, Amy, Ashley, and Daniel, and a cherished great-grandmother to Alexandra, Austin, McKayla, Hollye, Teghan, Hailey, Isaiah, Luca, Hunter, Weston, and Everett. Sarah was also a great-great-grandmother to Hudson and Sawyer, who brought her much joy.

Throughout her life, Sarah demonstrated immense dedication to both her family and her career. She was a pioneering woman who served as a police officer with the Metropolitan Toronto Police before transitioning to a role as a loan supervisor with CIBC. Her hard work and commitment to her professions were matched by her love for those around her.

In 1999 after the death of her husband Robert, Sarah fulfilled their dream of retiring to Wilberforce, where they renovated a century farmhouse that became the center of all family's gatherings. In Wilberforce, Sarah immersed herself in the community, participating in curling, bingo, and countless lunch and dinner gatherings with her neighbors and friends. It was in this picturesque town that she found peace, purpose, and lasting friendships.

Sarah will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, and unwavering love for her family. She touched the lives of many, and her memory will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Graveside Service

A Graveside Service will take place at the **SOUTH WILBERFORCE CEMETERY** in the spring, details to be announced. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Community Funeral Home

In Loving Memory of

Peter "Pete" Ronald Cowen

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare Haliburton, on Friday, March 14, 2025, with his loving family by his side. In his 79th year.

Beloved husband of the late Geraldine (nee Fraser) (1999). Loving father of Gene, Janine (James) and Tanya (Troy). Beloved poppa of Petey, Katie (Skyler), Glenn, Josie (Max) and great poppa of Aubriee and Mason. Son of the late Ronald and Violet Cowen. Dear brother of Derrik (Linda), Sandra (Nado), Tammy (Jim), Terry-Lynn, Yolinda, Bonnie (Dave), and predeceased by his sisters Joean, Sonya and Sherrie. Survived by brothers-in-law, Rick (Judy) and Bev. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, cousins and by his many lifelong friends.

In keeping with Pete's wishes, cremation has taken place and a celebration of his life will be held at his home in Haliburton on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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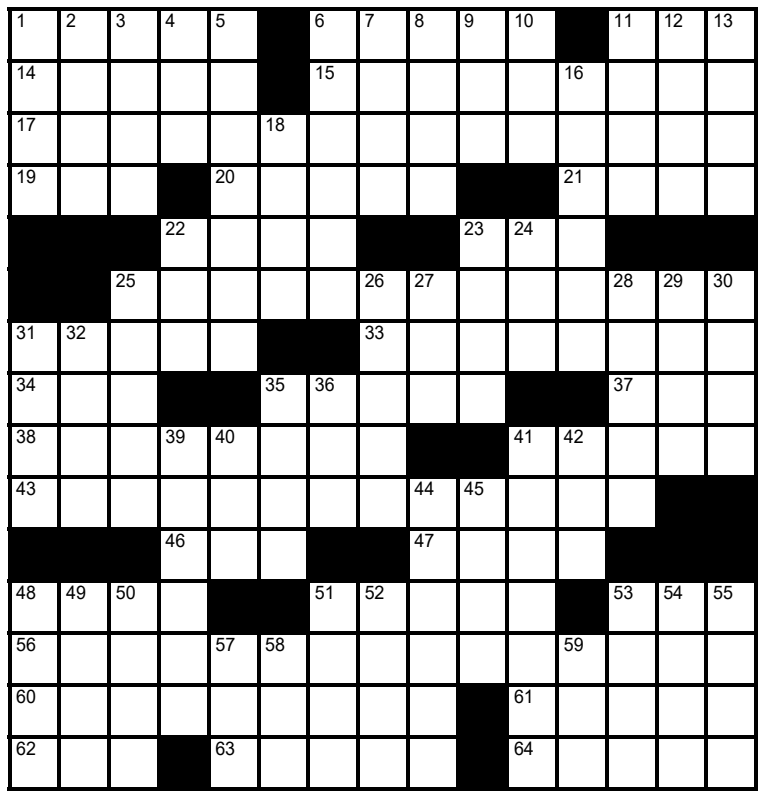
Highlander puzzles

Common Sense

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Part of a Robin Hood costume
6 Book jacket bit
11 Cassowary cousin
14 Wood used for axe handles
15 Unthreaded?
17 Superficial fix
19 Amt. to take, on labels
20 "___ all she wrote!"
21 Veggie also called gumbo
22 Thailand's landlocked neighbour
23 Noted dadaist Jean
25 Utter shemozzles
31 Buckingham Palace barker
33 Condiment that might make you sweat
34 Science-savvy exec.
35 Don some raiment, less formally
37 Smoked bagel spread
38 Sounding more raspy
41 Eeny-miney middle
43 Boring place that one might "blow"
46 "Spare tire" matter
47 Gunky buildup
48 Perfume container
51 "Get ___ of that!" ("Check it out!")
53 Bar band booking
56 Flexible contract provision
60 Xs and Os, by another name
61 Totalled up
62 T.O.'s home
63 With 64-Across, the starts of 17-, 25-, 43- and 56-Across, despite their generic use
64 See 63-Across

Down

1 Shortened, for short
2 Begin a new chapter, maybe
3 TV actress Sofer
4 Anxiety disorder, for short
5 Words before "chopped liver?"
6 Seriously hardcore
7 Hot desire
8 Some, in Spain
9 "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-___" (Irish lullaby)
10 Furnace stat
11 "The Red" Viking
12 "Love ___ leave ..." (ABBA lyric)
13 Fifth longest human bone
16 Perfect place
18 "Let's put a smile on your plate" restaurant
22 Cart with difficulty
23 B.A. part
24 Positions between first and second: Abbr.
25 Show thirst, as plants
26 (Remove the first letter to get its opposite)
27 Winged dawn goddess
28 Governed
29 "Macro" or "micro" course: Abbr.
30 Drawing a whistle, maybe?
31 Old USSR hockey jersey letters
32 Other: Sp.
35 Webster's work: Abbr.
36 Potential priest's subj.
39 Akin to a pancake
40 Sportage or Spectra
41 Overly weepy
42 Bread crust or music coda
44 Made a basket
45 ___ II (Gillette razor)
48 Authoritative prohibition
49 THE DOCTOR ___ (words on Lucy's booth)
50 Invoice ID. no.
51 "___ girl!"
52 Swimmer on a Canadian coin
53 U.S. island territory
54 "Here on Gilligan's ___" (sitcom lyric)
55 Sets, as jam
57 Muppet Beaker's workplace
58 Crossword clue dir.
59 "Knives Out" actress de Armas

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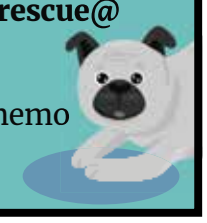
Tippytoe in the memo



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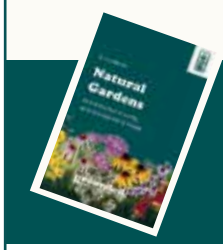

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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we bring our wealth of
experience and expertise.

BAUMGARTNER REALTY GROUP B|R

GOODERHAM
$850,000

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X11990795

SILVER BEACH
$595,000

3X BED | 3X BATH | MLS X12019003

GELERT ROAD
$575,000

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X12009789

HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900

3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10437756

OAKVIEW CO-LIVING
STARTING AT $319,000

3 UNITS AVAILABLE
UNIT 1, 2 AND 4

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X11884689

GULL RIVER
$759,900

5X BED | 3X BATH | MLS X10434162

KENNISIS LAKE
$750,000

3X BED | 1X BATH

KUSHOG LAKE
$549,900

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X11959957

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000

3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10435688

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

4X BED | 3X BATH

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

3X BED | 2X BATH

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X11955874
$178,000
25 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

Lot 7 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985022
$50,000
1.51 Acres

Lot 8 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985025
$50,000
1.48 Acres

Lot 10 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985027
$50,000
1.77 Acres

Lot 11 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985029
$50,000
1.40 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

MLS X12009789

3850 Gelert Road

$575,000

Gelert area

2300+ sq. ft of living

2.01 Acres

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
(705) 457.3461
contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

RE/MAX | PROFESSIONALS NORTH BAUMGARTNER REALTY
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